

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Downtown Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; and Franklin Graham, chairman and chief executive officer, Samaritan's

Purse. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The Executive order on equal protection of the laws for faith-based and community organizations is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Stephen Friedman as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council *December 12, 2002*

The President. Good afternoon. I'm pleased to introduce the newest member of my economic team, Mr. Steve Friedman. Welcome, Steve. I also want to welcome Barbara and Susie and Caroline and David and Sam. We're glad you all are here, and thank you for your sacrifice.

Steve Friedman has spent a career at the center of American enterprise and finance and job creation. He's an innovative economic thinker, a proven manager, and he's a business leader of national standing. He has served the country as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and as Chairman of a task force on modernizing financial management at the Pentagon. Steve is a graduate of Cornell University, and he holds a law degree from Columbia University and serves as chairman emeritus of that university's board.

I'm delighted that Steve will be joining the White House staff as Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council.

He replaces a dear friend, Larry Lindsey. I appreciate so very much Larry's service to our country. He has a distinguished career here in the White House. He's earned the respect of the President and everybody who has worked with him.

I selected Steve for his wide experience and steady and sound judgment. He understands the free enterprise system. He

knows how the economy works. And he shares my objectives for stronger economic growth, high standards of corporate integrity, more small businesses across our Nation, and greater trade across the world.

I will work with Steve and others on a growth-and-jobs package that we will present to the new Congress. In order to continue our economic recovery, we will propose further steps to add new jobs, reduce the burden on our taxpayers, and to strengthen investor confidence. Our economy is strong, and we're going to make it even stronger. It's important work, and Steve Friedman will be a key member of our team. And I'm pleased to welcome him to full-time public service.

Thank you very much, Steve. Appreciate it.

[*At this point, Director Friedman made brief remarks.*]

The President. You're welcome. I'm glad you're here. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Director Friedman's wife, Barbara, and their children Susie, Caroline, David, and Sam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Friedman.